



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



Leonard C. Boyle
Commissioner of Public Safety

Colonel Edward J. Lynch
Deputy Commissioner, Division of State Police

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CONNECTICUT STATE FIRE MARSHAL PROVIDES COLLEGE DORM SAFETY TIPS

As the college year approaches parents are preparing to send their college students to their college dorms. The Office of the State Fire Marshall has prepared the following list of safety tips for parents to help in providing a safe dorm environment.

Students should be aware that the typical small college room is filled with papers/books, bedding, curtains, clothing and smaller electrical items. Students living and sharing such tight quarters are reminded that smoking, cooking, unattended candles, as well as overloaded extension cords and power outlets, are common causes of fires and even the smallest flame or spark can lead to disaster. Parents are encouraged to go over list below while preparing to send your students off to school.

- Be sure that the dormitory is equipped with automatic fire sprinkler system.
- Inspect the students dorm room for a smoke detector.
- Take time to remind your student that a fire alarm, in a dorm, is a serious situation and to evacuate immediately.
- Have the student memorize the location of fire extinguishers and at least two emergency exits. Be sure the student remembers the number of doors to the closest exits.
- Have your student informed as to the disciplinary policy towards student who cause false alarms/ or fail to evacuate.
- Ensure that the Residence Hall Staff has undergone fire prevention training.
- If the dormitory building is older, be aware of possible electrical restrictions. The wiring may not be sufficient to handle the amount of electricity needed when multiple power strips are used.
- Purchase a power strip with an over-current protector, which shuts off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.
- Inform student to be wary of electrical outlets that get too hot to touch: if it becomes so hot you cannot leave your hand on it, you have a potential fire hazard. Unplug all appliances and notify landlord or resident assistant immediately.
- Advise student not to connect multiple extension cords together
- Never leave candles or incense unattended.
- Look for UL-Listed appliances that feature automatic shut-off buttons: Appliances with this safety feature make sure that you don't leave anything brewing or cooking on the counter all day.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet. Check appliances for frayed or cracked cords and make sure to replace them or get them repaired.

REMIND YOUR STUDENT THAT PROPERTY CAN BE REPLACED, LIVES CANNOT, PERSONAL SAFETY SHOULD BE THE PRIORITY!

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TFC. O'Connor

Sgt. J. Paul Vance
Tfc. Roger J. Beaupre
Tfc. Donna Tadiello
Sonya Efianayi

1111 Country Club Road
P.O. Box 2794
Middletown, CT. 06457

Tel: (860) 685-8230 Fax: (860) 685-8301
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